



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



*For Immediate Release*

Judy Pedersen, PIO

E-mail: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

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# Park Authority Sets Trailfest on May 6<sup>th</sup>

Hundreds of citizens braved frigid temperatures this past December to officially open the Cross County Trail. Organizers of Trailfest are confident that thousands of residents will come out this summer for a trail-wide celebration in warmer temperatures. The festivities, featuring dozens of programs and activities along the 40-mile trail are slated for Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

"This will be one of the largest celebrations in the history of Fairfax County," said Tim White, Chief Operating Officer for the Fairfax County Park Authority. White conceptualized the celebration and has coordinated efforts that will feature fun runs, scouting activities, naturalist programs, hikes and entertainment appropriate for all ages. "We have broken the trail into five districts and in each district we will have ribbon cuttings and activities. We know some folks will thru-hike the entire trail beginning when the sun rises, and then when the sun sets we'll gather at Laurel Hill for a fantastic fireworks display!"

The Park Authority is working cooperatively with the Park Foundation to pay for these programs and to raise both awareness and additional funding in support of open space and new trails. "Imagine the excitement of thousands of citizens who come out and make a contribution of time, and perhaps money in support of green spaces," said Bob Brennan, Executive Director of the Park Foundation. Brennan is currently seeking corporate sponsorships for several events and pavilion areas slated for Trailfest.

The Cross County Trail, first conceived by trail enthusiasts in 1997, is the primary north/south multi-use trail in the county, running along woodland stream valley trails for much of its length. The trail includes numerous stream crossings and also traverses many of the county's east-west roads. The trail is more than 40-miles long and stretches from Occoquan Regional Park on the Occoquan River in the south to Great Falls Park at the Potomac River in the north.

For more information about the trail visit us online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/cct/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/cct/). For more information about Trailfest, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662. For information regarding Trailfest sponsorships contact the Park Foundation at 703-324-8581.

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703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-324-3988 • ONLINE: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) • E-MAIL: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)



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